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CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF FIRST NATIONS SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURES IN QUÉBEC

2-2869

Québec City, Quebec (April 5, 2007) – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, is pleased to announce an additional \$430,000 in funding in order to improve the school infrastructure in three First Nations communities in Quebec. The funding is part of the federal government's national announcement of more than \$50 million for school infrastructure projects across the country.

"By investing in the construction and expansion of schools, we will be able to improve the quality of education in First Nations communities and help students to achieve their full academic potential," said Minister Prentice.

"Today's announcement is evidence that Canada's New Government is moving on its commitment to improve the quality of life for Aboriginals across Canada," said the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Regional Minister for Quebec.

The projects that obtained funding are the following:

Innu Community of Unamen Shipu: Teachers' residence: \$270,000

The contribution helped complete the financing package for construction of a quadriplex. This facility will provide accommodations for teachers from outside the community. The total cost for the project is \$400,000.

The community of Unamen Shipu is located in the Basse-Côte-Nord region and is not serviced by the road network.

Innu Community of Matimekush: School renovations: \$100,000

The contribution will help accelerate the ongoing renovation work at the Kanatamat School. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$8.5 million.

The community of Matimekush is located in a remote area, near the border with Labrador. It can only be accessed by air or train.

Atikamekw Community of Opitciwan: Plan and estimate: \$60,000

The contribution will help fund the completion of plans and estimates for installation of a new ventilation system in the Niska Primary School. The project, with an overall cost estimated at \$600,000, should be completed in 2007-2008.

The community of Opitciwan is located in Haute-Mauricie.

Canada's New Government continues to make investments for education facilities across Canada

to support projects such as construction, renovation, repair, and design and planning projects, including operation and maintenance, to improve learning environments.

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Date Modified: 2007-06-14